

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IGA-02 EB-07 /082 W
----- 121749

O 041636Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3617

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, LY

SUBJ: LIBYA-U.S. ACTING FORMIN ATTACKS US

1. TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDED
OVER BY UNDER SEC DURDAH OF MFA DEVOTED LARGELY TO ATTACK
ON U.S. U.S. NOT LAR GUILTY OF TERRORISM CLAIMS DURDAH.

2. PROMPTED BY QUESTION CONCERNING PRESIDENT FORD'S
ALLEGED REMARKS LINKING LIBYA WITH TERRORISM, UNDER-
SECRETARY DURDAH RESPONDED WITH SLASHING ATTACK ON US,
ISRAEL, AND "LACKEY ARAB FRIENDS". PRESS CONFERENCE TOOK
PLACE IN EARLY HOURS SEPT 4 ATTENDED BY SOME ONE HUNDRED
JOURNALISTS IN TRIPOLI TO COVER SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF QADHAFI REVOLUTION. BULK OF REPORTERS WERE FROM
THIRDMTORLD OR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. TWO AMERICAN,
SEVERAL BRITS AND SCATTERED WEST EUROPEANS ALSO PRESENT.
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SEVERAL OTHER LAR MINISTERS PRESENT BUT DURDAH WAS STAR

OF SHOW.

3. DURDAH OPENED CONFERENCE BY REMARKING THAT PRESS WAS LOSING PERSPECTIVE LEBANESE SITUATION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS U.S., ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN CONSPIRACY TO DESTROY PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT, SECURE ISRAEL'S NORTHERN AND EASTERN BORDERS AND FORCE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CERTAIN ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL.

4. DURDAH WAS OBVIOUSLY WELL PREPARED FOR UNNAMED REPORTERS QUERY ON U.S. CHARGES OF LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM. IN THIS FASHION HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

PRESIDENT FORD'S ACCUSATION THAT LIBYA ENGAGED IN TERRORISM HAS BEEN ECHOED BY CANDIDATE CARTER. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING. THEY ARE BOTH COMPETING FOR VOTES IN A ZIONIST ENVIORNMENT.

-- LIBYA OPOOSES THE LIQUIDATION OF THE K AB CAUSE AND IS THEREFORE A PRIME U.S. TARGET.

-- LIBYA SUPPORTS LIBERATION FORCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD- THIS IS NOT TERRORISM.

-- THE U.S. IS BESIEGING OUR SHORES WITH AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND PLANES, IS THAT NOT TERRORISM?

-- U.S.S MONOPOLIZES THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD - IS THAT NOT TERRORISM?

-- U.S. DOMINATES THE OUTLETS OF THE SEAS - IS THAT NOT TERRORISM?

-- U.S. SUPPORTS FASCISTS REGIMES WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS - IS THAT NOT TERRORISM?

-- U.S. USRP WHEAT, GOLD AND ECONOMIC BLOCKADES FOR POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PURPOSES -- IS THAT NOT TERRORISM?

5. LIBYA DID NOT OCCUPY VIETNAM AND GO TO WAR IN KOREA. LIBYA DOES NOT HAVE BASES OUTSIDE ITS OWN TERRDITORIES. LIBYA DOES NOT INTERFERE IN OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE THE U.S. DID IN CHILE. WE WILL NOT SCCUMB TO THE U.S. PRESSURES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MORALLY AND MATERIALLY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS IS NOT

TERRORISM.

6. THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT TERRORISM SHOULD RETHINK THEIR IDEAS. FEZHEY CANNOT AFFECT US. U.S. TRIED WITH OTHERS BUT FAILED EVEN IN SMALL ISLAND CLOSE TO ITS SHORES. WE HAVE FAITH AND SELF CONFIDENCE WHICH ARE POWERFUL WEAPONS AGAINST U.S. PRESIDENT AND OTHERS.

7. COMMENT: DURING MEETING AUGUST 11 WITH MFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHAABAN (TRIPOLI 1085) SAID LARG WAS AWARE OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT BUT IN INTEREST OF CONTINUING INCIPIENT US LARG DIALOGUE (TRIPOLI 0833 15 JUNE) CHOSE FOR TIME BEING TO TAKE NO OFFICIAL NOTICE. PRESUMABLY DURDAH'S OUTBURST INDICATES LARG NO LONGER HOPEFUL OR INTERESTED IN PURSUING "DIALOGUE" LESS LIKELY POSSIBILITY IS THAT HE MAY WISH TO JOG US ALONG. OTHER FACTORS MOTIVATING ATTACK MIGHT INCLUDE CONCERN OVER LEBANESE DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUING SQUABBLE WITH EGYPT AND HEADY SENSATION ACCOMPANYING SEVENTH ANNIVETUARY OF SEPT ONE RESOLUTION.
CARLE

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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